

The following is a reprint from the Pacific Region Safety Newsletter dated April 2001.

*Same author as now. I felt it would be a good companion story to page 1 of this current newsletter.
Saved me some work too, didn't it?*

DON'T LET YOUR TOYS KILL YOU!

I recently attended an AOPA Air Safety Foundation seminar on GPS. It was very rewarding. I will not try to pass on all of the information that I gleaned from their presentation, but one item was stressed that has been talked about many times, and needs further emphasis.

Basically , the AOPA ASF quoted some pretty startling figures showing the amount of time that a test group of pilots flying simulators kept their eyes glued to the GPS, compared to the same group flying simulators not equipped with GPS.

Consider the lucky pilot that just acquired a new GPS unit and studied it six ways from Sunday, used it while walking around his neighborhood and marveled at the amazing sensitivity of his new toy.

By the time he made his first flight with this new mini marvel, he was comfortable with many of its features and could hardly wait to see his ground speed accurately displayed as his waypoints slip by and new ones come into view on the tiny display that had him completely enraptured. He even tried to check his position on the airport as he taxied to the runup area. It worked! Wow! Is this thing great or what? He also amazes another pilot waiting at an entry to the taxiway as the now mesmerized pilot weaves his way toward the departure end of the runway, *his head was not even visible from the outside of the aircraft.*

On take off our GPS Guru was pleased to see the immediate response in ground speed readout from his magic unit.

He rotated a few knots before he should have but really didn't notice his airspeed.. He's was flying by satellite now! He didn't observe the very large shadow that passed over him as he approached pattern altitude. He knew precisely where he was and where he was going.

By the time our pilot reached his enroute altitude for this GPS shakedown cruise he was so happy with his new toy he almost broke out in song. "I ONLY HAVE EYES FOR YOU" or something like that.

Lets stop here with the story before it becomes morbid.

BURY YOUR HEAD IN THE COCKPIT AND SOMEONE MAY BURY THE REST OF YOU!

Synopsis

What we are trying to achieve in discussions like this is *awareness!* When one thinks about the accelerating rate of technology at our disposal, it is mind boggling, and wonderful. But while the technology of today is outstanding at multi-tasking, we,as humans are not.

The learning curve of new technology can sometimes be slow and we often separate our use of items, such as GPS and Smartphones, from other activities until we are more comfortable in their use. Our young people excel in their enthusiasm for new gadgets. Be sure to keep our Cadets and children aware of these matters. But familiarity breeds complacency so be careful, be alert and stay alive.



**THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER: LETS HEAR FROM YOU:
SEND YOUR COMMENTS, TIPS AND IDEAS TO:
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